(b) if so, now tar it reflects a clear departure from India's often repeated stand including that spelt out in Parliament's resolution on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government have seen a Pakistan press report to this effect.

(b) It has already been clarified that the Prime Minister did not make these remarks attributed to him in a Pakistan newspaper. Government is committed to upholding the Constitution of India. The unity and territorial integrity of India shall not be compromised. There is no change in Government's position regarding Pakistan's forcible and illegal occupation of a part of the territory of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Indo-China Talks

2695. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement of Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan to the effect that talks with India on two countries border dispute would resume after being suspended following New Delhi's nuclear blast last year;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon; and

(c) the time by when talks are likely to resume?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRl JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government have seen reports on China's Foreign Minister, Tang Jiaxuan's Press Briefing on March 7, 1999. We seek friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China, our largest neighbour on the basis of Panchsheel. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding issues. The two sides are currently engaged in finalising the dates for convening the next meeting of the Joint Working Group. The meeting is likely to be held in Beijing in the coming weeks.

पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री की भारत-यात्रा

2696. **श्री राजूभाई ए0 परमार :** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री ने भारत की यात्रा की इच्छा व्यक्त की हैं, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री जसवन्त सिंह) : (क) और (ख) भारत के प्रधानमंत्री ने पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री को भारत की यात्रा पर आने का आमत्रंण दिया और इस बात की संभावना हैं कि यह यात्रा परस्पर सुविधाजनक समय पर होगी।

भारत से सहयोग मांगा जाना

2697. **श्री राजूभाई ए0 परमार :** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पाकिस्तान सरकार ने भारत के स्पेशनल प्रोटेक्शन ग्रुप की तर्ज पर विशेष पुलिस बल का गठन करने के लिए भारत सरकार के सहयोग मांगा हैं,

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं, और

(ग) इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया हैं ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री जसवन्त सिंह) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Issue of passports from Hyderabad

2698. SHRI C. RAMACHAN DRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTER NAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the number of passport applications pending with the Regional Passport Office in Hyderabad;

(b) whether it is a fact that thousands of people have to visit Hyderabad to pursue their applications;

(c) what steps are proposed to ease the situation; and

(d) the details thereof?